

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows:

Replace paragraph [0046] of Applicants' published patent application with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0046] In addition, raised guide surface 330 and channel 320 cooperate to securely retain speech processor module 180 to tray 324 when the speech processor module is mounted in protective case 202. It should be appreciated, however, that additional or alternative means may be employed to removably secure speech processor module 180 to tray 324. Embodiments of tray 324 may also include other components to facilitate the removable mounting of speech processor 180. For example, in the embodiment illustrated in FIG. 3, a ~~brace 336~~ brace 318 which is curved to abut or be adjacent with a curved surface of speech processor module 180 is provided. In alternative embodiments, speech processor 180 is securely retained in protective case 324 using other techniques now or later developed.

Replace paragraph [0048] of Applicants' published patent application with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0048] Specifically, wiring connects the power supply contacts (not shown) on tray 324 and the connector (not shown) on connector block 332 which mates with speech processor module 180. Such wiring may be integrated, for example, into ~~platform 328~~ platform 336 of tray 324, or may extend below ~~platform 328~~ platform 336. In the latter embodiment, tray 324 preferably does not rest in the bottom surface of base member 204; rather, it rests support members to provide a space between ~~platform 328~~ platform 336 and base member 204 when tray 324 is secured to the base member.

Replace paragraph [0050] of Applicants' published patent application with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0050] As noted, base member 204 and cover member 206 are attached to each other to provide a protective enclosure for speech processor module 180 and on-board power supply 216. Cover member 204 and base member 206 are configured also to provide the recipient or carer access the enclosure to install or remove speech processor module 180 and power supply 216. In the embodiment shown in FIGS. 2 and 3, for example, cover member 206 is removable; that is, cover member 204 and base member 206 separate from each other to expose the interior of base member 204. It should be appreciated, however, that a portion or all of cover member 206 may be configured, for example, to rotate away from base member 204 to create an aperture through which speech processor module 180 and on-board power supply 216 can ~~be pass~~ be passed. Such rotation can be provided, for example, with mechanical hinges. There are, of course, a myriad of other arrangements that may be implemented to provide the noted access. For example, one or more rotating, sliding, removable, or other types of doors, panels, sides, etc., may be implemented in either or both, cover member 206 and base member 204.

Replace paragraph [0054] of Applicants' published patent application with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0054] Protective case 202 comprises a fixation device to removably secure cover member 206 to base member 204. In the embodiment illustrated in FIGS. 2 and 3, such a fixation device comprises a combination of an appropriately located screw and threaded hole. Specifically, sheath 334 has an orifice 304 formed therein that is adapted to allow passage of a threaded shaft of fixation screw 214 through sheath 334. Similarly, cover member 206 has an orifice 308 adapted to allow passage of the threaded shaft of screw 214. When cover member 206 and sheath 334 are assembled with based member 204, orifice 308 and orifice 304 are aligned with each other. Screw 214 may then pass through orifice 308 in cover member 206, and orifice 304 in sheath 334 to threadingly engage a threaded hole 310 of a post 312 on ~~base member 204~~ tray 324.

Replace paragraph [0059] of Applicants' published patent application with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0059] As noted, protective case 202 provides protection for speech processor module 180 and on-board power supply 216. In the embodiments described above, such protection includes protecting the components from ingress of fluid, dust or other particulates such as airborne fumes. In other embodiments, protective case 202 is capable of providing protection against electromagnetic interference (EMI). In such embodiments, the interior surfaces of cover member 206 and base member 204 are coated with a conformal EMI coating such as that used in cellular phones, computer systems and other electronic devices ~~with that~~ that emit or are sensitive to electromagnetic radiation. In addition, in such embodiments gasket 302 is an EMI gasket suitable for preventing EMI from escaping through the joined surfaces of cover member 206 and base member 204.

Replace paragraph [0062] of Applicants' published patent application with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0062] Headpiece interface 402 comprises a microphone signal line 410, an RF/telemetry signal ~~line 412~~ line 411, a voltage signal line ~~line 414~~ line 412 and a ground signal ~~line 416~~ line 414. In the embodiment shown in FIGS. 2 and 3, these signal lines are included in cable 210 connecting headpiece 208 and speech processor module 180 via connector 188.